

Session 12-08 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order on October 2, 2012 at 5:08 pm by Chair Eileen Faulkner at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS COGGER, GROESBECK, FLETCHER, FAULKNER, AND GORDON

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR ANN DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK RENEE KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was no audience present.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during regular meetings only)*

A. Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting on August 7, 2012

Chair Faulkner requested approval of the minutes.

There were three corrections regarding grammar noted and one correction in information.

Board member Groesbeck made a point of order that grammatical errors should be sent to the Clerk and not pointed out during the approval process.

The minutes were approved as amended by consensus of the Board.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Friends Report

There was no report given.

B. Next Friends Meeting – October 10, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. Library Conference Room

Ms. Cogger noted for the record that she will attend the meeting next week.

C. Director's Report November and Monthly Statistics October 2012

Ms. Dixon reviewed her report and commented on the OWL computer system; the conference high points; the US has fallen behind several other countries due to challenges and the state of Alaska is at the bottom. The state has high internet use but Alaska does not have the bandwidth, some governmental documents are only available online in the Lower 48; Public Libraries are considered anchor institutions

and are a priority for connectivity; plant sale made over \$3000; inquiry was made to have a wedding in the Library and there is no policy against this but there is nothing set up in the fee schedule, etc. This brought up some possibilities for the future. So when they look at the policies again they should address that issue.

There were a few comments on the statistics on meeting room usage, attendance for story hour and lap-sit and higher internet use. There were higher numbers in audio book check outs.

E. Landscape Committee Report – Monica Cogger/Tamara Fletcher

Ms. Fletcher reported that the committee is still meeting however have decided not to meet during the summer months. They did come up with some ongoing agenda items and will not be meeting from May through August since it is too hard to get people together. Ms. Fletcher noted that Angie Otteson was to have additional help through October and was scheduled to attack the alders.

There was a brief discussion on attending Council meetings for the budget; getting some interest of the Future Farmers group at the high school that may fit into their curriculum.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2012 at noon at the Library.

F. Budget & Statistics Report – Phil Gordon

Phil Gordon was researching what advice has been given to Council over the years and proposed to clearly advise them before the budget hearing when they are burdened with an avalanche of data and strident demands. He believed that a list of successes and the reasons for those successes and a second list of the obstacles to success in any areas they see the need for improvement. He suggested they brainstorm the two lists and then prioritize each list.

A discussion ensued on the role and job of the Library Advisory Board and how those recommendations were processed through memorandums submitted to the City Manager who forwards them to the City Council and Mayor and meeting attendance to inform Council on the sub committee's progress. It was noted that many of the other commissions and committees do attend the Council meetings with the exception of Planning Commission and Transportation Committee.

Further discussion on the drastic difference between the funding of libraries in other communities and the degree that Homer does not fund its library ensued.

Mr. Gordon noted the following in his report:

- Staff is excellent though over-worked
- Facility is good, if not perfect
- Programs are good if not meeting all community needs
- Circulation of materials and resources is good
- Patronage is excellent – a huge volunteer and support group
- Collection budget is poor, and has been poor for decades

It was noted that there has been published comment that the library is not part or considered one of the core city functions or services. The Council does not see the statistics and it may be beneficial for them to see the effects. The library was the busy place in the city on a daily basis and this information should be provided to council. Mr. Gordon noted that the other community's libraries have not won awards.

Staff provided information and guidance on advocating for the increases requested for 2013.

There was a discussion on the dynamic discussion on the budgets of the different cities and that those figures do not include charity. It was noted that grants took a significant amount of staff time for reporting requirements.

Mr. Gordon also noted that the Library does not fit in the requirements for State Funding and inclusion on the Capital Improvement Plan regarding book collection. He next reviewed the growth of the Materials

Budget for the 1990 – 2010 for Kenai, Soldotna, Kodiak, Seward and Homer with the other community's growth is over 100% and Homer is less than 10% growth.

Ms. Fletcher commented that this information Mr. Gordon provided was very powerful and recommended showing it in a graph format.

Ms. Fletcher departed the meeting at 5:50 p.m. for a prior commitment.

The Board continued a discussion on the aspects of presenting information to Council. Chair stated that this information can be used in supporting the budget request and her reason for testifying at the last meeting. Mr. Groesbeck recommended having it drafted for review and approval at the next meeting. That way it can be ready to go for December.

There was additional discussion on submitting an editorial to the local papers, Mckibben at Homer News was selected. It was recommended to provide Mckibben with some of the stats like how many customers are helped daily, the children's programs, and a shelter and safe place for the area homeless teens.

Ms. Dixon commented on a calculator application where you can input some data and it provides a value.

H. Children's Art/ Art Report – Eileen Faulkner

Chair Faulkner reported that new art is now hanging in the Children's Library from McNeil Canyon.

Ms. Dixon reported that they received a request from a teacher at Kachemak Kids but according to the policies it must be from a non-profit. So that has been under consideration.

Chair Faulkner commented on the bylaws state that they hang art from artists that are for profit so she did not see why they could not hang the art. It was noted that they could not have signs or sell why hanging.

It was asked if the Policy October agenda.

FAULKNER/COGGER – MOVED TO ALLOW THE ART FROM KACHEMAK KIDS BE DISPLAYED IN THE LIBRARY.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Library policies – Updated Policy Chart

Chair Faulkner requested that this item be postponed until November since a few more things were added.

B. 2013 Budget Schedule and Discussion on the Needs of the Library

Chair Faulkner noted that this item was pretty much discussed during Mr. Gordon's report.

A brief discussion on testifying at Council meetings as private citizens was conducted.

NEW BUSINESS

A. October 5, 2012 Appreciation Party

Brief discussion on attending and what will be served and everybody should be there!

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Memorandum to City Manager Re: Removal of Board member for Unexcused Absences

B. Memorandum to Mayor & City Council Re: Capital Improvement Plan 2013 Recommendations

There was no discussion on the materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience present.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

There were no staff comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is assigned)*

There was no councilmember present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Faulkner commented that she will not be at the December meeting; down two members so need to get some new members.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Ms. Cogger and Mr. Gordon had no comments.

Mr. Groesbeck commented kudos to the Friends on the Book Sale and that they are greatly appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Chair Faulkner adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2012 at 5:00 pm at City Hall Upstairs Conference Room 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____